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SECURITY INFORMATION

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MAR 20 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: TSS Program for Fiscal Year 1953

1. Pursuant to your request, set out below are the comments of OSO on the lengthy, undated document entitled, "Program and Budget for TSS Research and Development" (TS #63172).

2. A careful review of this document indicates that it is a detailed presentation of a maximum Research and Development program for TSS, the contemplated cost of which is [] during a twelve months' period. Many phases of this program, in fact the bulk of it, are designed to support OPC operations rather than OSO operations and consequently OPC is better able to comment on many points.

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3. The basic question which this proposal appears to raise is the validity of its scope. As outlined, TSS proposes a complete Research and Development program which apparently not only reaches into all fields of equipment and support having any technical aspects, but also contemplates a major undertaking in basic scientific research. It is noted that the sum of [] is allocated for "Creative Research". TSS contemplates both creative and applied Research and Development in such fields as transportation (including aircraft, boats, etc.), weapons, communications, navigational aids, camouflage, demolition, survival equipment and training devices. Many of the fields of Research and Development which it is proposed that TSS enter appear not only to be fields of primary interest to the services and other agencies but fields where those agencies should be able to conduct more efficiently necessary research and development at the behest of CIA. In addition, if TSS embarks on such a large scale program, covering so many diverse fields, it would appear probable that their work will duplicate to a considerable extent work already being conducted or projected by other agencies.

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4. It is difficult to determine the extent to which duplication would exist or the extent to which the services and other agencies might be better able to perform some of the functions proposed for TSS, inasmuch

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as the program submitted does not clearly reflect how detailed and authoritative a survey has been made of Research and Development presently conducted by other agencies. By implication the program also provides for the collection and development of certain operational technique information which might better be centralized in other units of CIA, including the Staffs and Area Divisions.

5. It would appear questionable that a program of such magnitude could be established effectively and efficiently in the brief period of twelve months. To a very great extent the success of the program will, of course, depend upon the caliber of the personnel who can be assigned to it on a full-time basis, and also on the effectiveness with which various problems could be assigned or subcontracted to other agencies and/or to existing laboratories. The figures stipulated for various fields of activity are not broken down into detailed items of expenditures and consequently it is difficult to determine exactly what portions of the funds are to go into the development of a CIA laboratory and what portions are to be allocated for existing facilities for Research and Development at CIA request.

6. It is noted also that no priority has been established in the various fields of Research and Development. In view of the limited facilities of TSS at present, some system of priorities would appear to be essential if those programs of the greatest interest to the operational Offices are to be given the necessary stress.

7. The program proposes such a multiplicity of items for development or improvement that specific comments are not included in this memorandum on each of the items listed. However, from a review of the program it would appear that a number of the items are of marginal importance to the present and immediate future operations of the covert offices. Consequently, a careful analysis should be made by the covert offices of those items considered most necessary and, on the basis of this analysis, a system of priorities should be applied to the program.

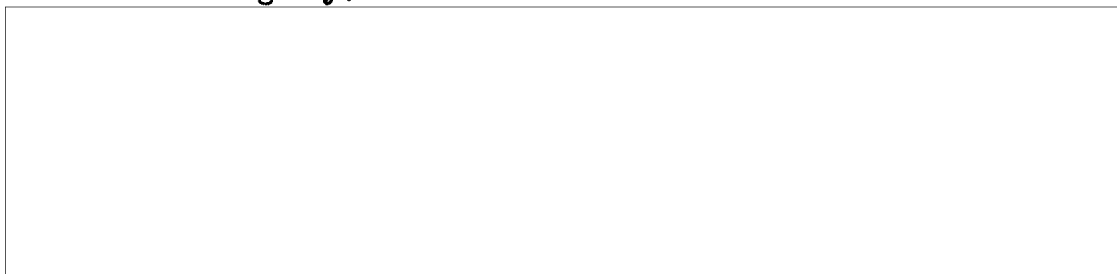
RECOMMENDATIONS

8. Before this program is approved, it is recommended that:
 - a. A detailed survey be conducted of all Research and Development presently under way or projected by other agencies and by such other institutions and laboratories as are appropriate.
 - b. The proposed program be analyzed in connection with this survey in order to avoid duplication and confusion.

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- c. The program be limited to those items and fields of Research and Development which are of unique and immediate interest to the operational Offices, excluding all matters which fall primarily within the purview or interest of another agency.



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//LYMAN B. KIRKPATRICK
Assistant Director
Special Operations

cc: Chief, TSS

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